

S/N 09/963,918

Response to Office Action Dated Aug. 1, 2005

In the Claims**1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:**

requesting a block of telephone numbers from a number pool organization, wherein numbers in the requested block of telephone numbers are to be used by a receiving service provider as both telephone directory numbers and customer identifiers for customers of the receiving service provider, wherein the number pool organization coordinates donation and allocation of blocks of telephone numbers for use by a plurality of service providers comprising the receiving service provider, and other service providers;

receiving the requested block of telephone numbers from the number pool organization, the received block of telephone numbers comprising a plurality of telephone numbers already in use by the other service providers and a plurality of telephone numbers not already in use by the other service providers;

retrieving from a database a list comprising the plurality of telephone numbers already in use by the other service providers and therefore unavailable for use as both telephone directory numbers and customer identifiers for customers of the receiving service provider; and

retrieving from a database, a location routing number of a switch of the receiving service provider associated with the plurality of telephone numbers not already in use by the other service providers and therefore available for use by the receiving service provider as both telephone directory numbers and customer identifiers for customers of the receiving service provider.

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1 2. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, comprising
2 receiving the list comprising the plurality of telephone numbers already in use by
3 the other service providers and the location routing number from a single database.

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5 3. **(Previously Presented)** The method of claim 1, further comprising
6 transmitting the list comprising the plurality of telephone numbers already in use
7 by the other service providers to a component of the service provider.

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9 4. **(Original)** The method of claim 3, wherein the component
10 comprises a billing system.

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12 5. **(Original)** The method of claim 3, wherein the component
13 comprises a facility maintenance system.

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15 6. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting
16 the location routing number of the switch to which the received block of numbers
17 are associated to a component of the service provider.

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19 7. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the component is a
20 billing system.

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22 8. **(Original)** The method of claim 6, wherein the component
23 comprises a facility maintenancce system.

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1 9. **(Currently Amended)** A system comprising:

2 an interface for communicating between a number pooling authority
3 and a component of the a service provider, wherein the service provider has
4 requested a block of telephone numbers to be used as both telephone directory
5 numbers and customer identifiers for customers of the requesting service provider,
6 wherein the number pool organization coordinates donation and allocation of blocks
7 of telephone numbers for use by a plurality of service providers comprising the
8 requested service provider and other service providers;

9 a database comprising a list of numbers in the block of telephone
10 numbers received by the requesting service provider, the list comprising the
11 plurality of telephone numbers already in use by the other service providers and
12 therefore unavailable for use as both telephone directory numbers and customer
13 identifiers for customers of the requesting service provider; and

14 a database comprising a location routing number of a switch of the
15 requesting service provider associated with the plurality of telephone numbers
16 not already in use by the other service providers and therefore available for use
17 by the ~~receiving~~requesting service provider as both telephone directory numbers
18 and customer identifiers for customers of the requesting service provider in the
19 block of telephone numbers received by the requesting service provider.

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21 10. **(Original)** The system of claim 9, further comprising receiving the
22 list and the location routing number from a single database.

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11. (Original) A computer-readable medium containing computer-readable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

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